



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities
and related developmental disabilities

43 Woodland Street, Suite 260, Hartford, CT 06105

Telephone: 860-246-6400 Facsimile: 860-246-6406

Website: www.arcofct.org

President
Diane Aubin
The Arc of New London County
Norwich

Executive Director
Lynn C. Warner

March 18, 2010

First Vice President
Imelda Reno
The Arc of Farmington Valley
Canton

**Testimony before The Government Administration and Elections
Committee**

by

Leslie Simoes, Assistant Executive Director/The Arc of Connecticut

Second Vice President
Barry Sheffel
The Arc of Meriden-Wallingford
Meriden

Good morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, and Members of the GAE Committee. My name is Leslie Simoes and I am the Assistant Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 58-year-old statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. We have 23 local chapters that provide supports, services, and advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities throughout Connecticut.

Secretary
Lori Baer
The Arc of Litchfield County
Torrington

I am here today to testify in favor of two bills,

Treasurer
Anthony Recck
Futures, Inc.
Middletown

**S. B. No. 472 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY
PERMISSIVE IN-STATE CONTRACTING PREFERENCES AND
A PILOT PROGRAM FOR JANITORIAL EMPLOYEES**

Immediate Past President
Ken Cholewinski
SARAH Seneca
Gullford

**S. B. No. 473 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING STATE
CONTRACTING**

Contributions are
tax-deductible

Both bills before you today and SB 422, An Act Concerning the Department of Administrative Services Pilot Program, whose public hearing was held this past Wednesday, have lines that would extend the term of the pilot program for janitorial work for persons with disabilities from four years to seven years. The Arc of Connect applauds these bills and this committee to raising it.

The original intent of this pilot was to expand the program to other state agencies. However, with the difficult fiscal position the state finds itself in, the expansion of this important project is currently unlikely. However, the effort to preserve the success of the pilot with an extension to 7 years is a very good safety net to keep it intact and operating.

The Arc/Connecticut, Inc. Member Chapters: Futures, Inc., Middletown / Greater Enfield Arc / Family Options, Watertown / The Arc of Farmington Valley / Friends of New Milford, Inc. / The Arc of Litchfield County / LOV-Arc, Westbrook / MARC, Inc., Manchester / MARC: Community Resources, Portland / The Arc of Meriden-Wallingford / The Arc of Greater New Haven / The Arc of New London County / Options, Unlimited / The Arc of Plainville / The Arc of Quinebaug Valley / SARAH Inc., Gullford / SARAH Seneca Residential Services / SARAH Tuxis Residential Services / STAR, Norwalk / The Arc of Southington / Tri County Arc, Columbia / Waterbury Arc / WeCAHR, Danbury

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This committee heard testimony this past Wednesday on SB 422, from people employed in the pilot and the ultimate success that was realized. I will merely remind you of the value and worth this program has added to these individuals' lives, encourage you to keep them in mind and vote favorably to extend this pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.